

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Division of Disease Prevention (DDP)

Monthly Ebulletin



<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/disease-prevention>

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June 2017 Edition

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Virginia AIDS Drug Assistance Program Re-Certification

Effective May 1, 2017, the Virginia AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) changed the re-certification timeline. The changes improve compliance with requirements in federal legislation and guidance from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Clients are re-certified using the last date on their application. They will then be re-certified again six months from that date. VDH will mail documents to clients 90 days from their end date instead of 60 days, as previously done. In May 2017, VDH mailed documents to clients with February/August eligibility end dates. Clients with March/September end dates will receive documents in June.

Virginia ADAP will be dis-enrolling clients who are not eligible due to lack of re-certification documents. Those who have not accessed medications in the last six months will also be dis-enrolled.

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ADAP Update

Please note ADAP application and recertification materials have been updated on the [website](#).

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Call to Action: Stem the Tide of Rising Syphilis in the U.S.

CDC's Division of STD Prevention released a call to action in April 2017 that issued specific action steps for communities affected by syphilis. These steps will reduce the burden of infection through research, treatment, and outreach. The document also lists how CDC will contribute to reducing syphilis burden. [Read the call to action](#).

VDH Messages

To ensure you receive e-mail messages, such as the DDP E-Bulletin or announcements about funding opportunities, please check that important DDP contacts (such as your contract monitor) are in your address book so that their e-mails are not sent to your spam or junk folders. Check those folders regularly to see if you have missed messages.

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ADAP Enrollment Numbers as of 5/23/17

- Total Clients Enrolled: 6,138
- Direct ADAP Clients: 1,560
- Medicare Part D Assistance Program (MPAP) Clients: 551
- Insurance Continuation Assistance Program (ICAP) Clients: 532
- Health Insurance Marketplace Assistance Program (HIMAP) Enrollment Clients: 3,495

Save the Date: Quality Training

Five consumer trainings on quality will be scheduled in June and July 2017. The Virginia Consumer Advisory Committee welcomes consumer and agency attendance statewide. VDH will provide further training information as it becomes available. Ryan White provider agencies: Please share this information with consumers you serve. Direct any questions about this training series to [Safere Diawara](#) at (804) 864-8021.

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ADAP Formulary

NARCAN® Nasal Spray (NNS) 4mg is now available on the ADAP Formulary. Requests should follow standard procedures for ordering medications on the ADAP Formulary from Central Pharmacy. For this and other medication changes, please see the updated [ADAP formulary](#).

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State-Specific Rates of Syphilis among MSM

CDC released the first state-specific rates of primary and secondary syphilis among men who have sex with men (MSM) in a recent Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). According to the report, MSM account for over 60 percent of all early syphilis cases. Rates among this population were over 100 times greater than those seen in women and men who have sex with women. These data highlight the impact of syphilis on MSM, and identifies states hardest hit by these infections. The MMWR also included an analysis of HIV services provided by state and local STD programs. The report emphasized that the programs often “provide integral HIV specific services” and play a crucial role in combating both the HIV and STD epidemics. For the full report, [click here](#).

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2017 HIMAP Enrollment Numbers

- Re-enrolled for 2017 (have all information): 2,990
- New Enrollments for 2017: 455
- Enrolled in ACA in 2016 (no 2017 information): 48

Hepatitis C/HIV Treatment Assistance Program Numbers

- Total Clients that have Accessed Program: 84
- Clients that have Completed Therapy: 72
- Clients Currently on Treatment: 7

HepVu: Mapping the Hepatitis Epidemic in the U.S.

[HepVu.org](#) is a new interactive online resource. This site offers a first-of-its-kind picture of the hepatitis C virus in America. HepVu.org provides interactive maps that illustrate hepatitis C antibody prevalence estimates and mortality data at the state level. You can use the site to visualize data can by rates and case counts. You can also stratify mortality data can by sex, race, and age.



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ADAP Listserv

To request to be added to the ADAP Listserv to receive updates, please contact [Carrie Rhodes](#) at (804) 864-7914.

HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Assistance Program Numbers as of 5/23/17

- Clients Currently on VDH PrEP Drug Assistance Program: 150
- [PrEP Services Locator](#)

PrEP Campaign Reaches Public in Eastern

The Virginia Greater Than AIDS (VGTA) campaign has expanded its PrEP initiative. Campaign advertisements are currently running on radio, television, cable, billboards, and public transportation. New digital videos are also being displayed in the region. The purpose of the advertisements is to increase knowledge of PrEP in the region. Ads direct persons to the [VGTA page](#) for more information and prompt users to call



the Virginia Disease Prevention Hotline for more resources.

DDP encourages agencies and partners to relay any client feedback to [Chris Barnett](#), Social Media Coordinator. Common themes in feedback will help improve the campaign in the future.

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The Community Advancement Project (CAP)

The Community Advancement Project (CAP) meets regionally as an advisory board to assess needs of gay and bisexual men and transgender women of color. CAP has worked to identify health needs including mental health, awareness of PrEP, substance abuse, domestic violence, perceptions of LGBT persons of color in the media, health testing, stigma, access to treatment, and more. If you would like to participate or receive more information, please contact [Joshua Thomas](#).

Stay Connected!

Check out upcoming events on the DDP [HIV Prevention webpage](#). You can request to have your own events added to the calendar and our Facebook page through the Event Submission Form, located on the events page under the events calendar.

For those using a compatible web browser, you may also download the [Event Submission Form](#) directly and submit it following the directions at the bottom of the sheet. "Like" our DDP [Facebook page](#) and share it with your friends to stay connected socially and hear about events throughout the state.

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Request for Proposals: PrEP Social Marketing Campaign

VDH DDP is looking to solicit proposals from qualified media/marketing contractors for a PrEP social marketing campaign. This request for proposals (RFP) is to provide media buying services to expand the current PrEP campaign in Eastern throughout the state. VDH will accept sealed proposals until 2:00 pm on July 19, 2017.

For questions about this RFP, or to request a copy of RFP#: VDH-17-611-0171, contact [Nancy Sconzo](#).

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Lubricant Packs Available through the DDP Condom Distribution Program

Did you know that using non-oil-based lubricant can increase the effectiveness of condoms? This means that applying lubricant to a condom can decrease the chances of it breaking. Lubricant packs are available through the DDDP Condom Distribution Program in cases of 1,000, and are on the [order form](#).

Both health districts and community partners are eligible to participate in the program. Organizations may now order up to 100,000 condoms each year. Organizations with multiple sites may be approved to order more. Smaller quantities of female condoms and non-latex condoms are also available. Direct questions about the condom program to [Beth Marschak](#) at (804) 864-8008.

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Quality Management Update

On May 7-8, 2017, the Virginia Consumer Advisory Committee (VACAC) headed to

Norfolk to take part in a Consumer Train-the-Trainer on Quality. The 18 participants displayed great energy and excitement about their involvement. Soon, each regional VACAC partner will hold its own consumer training.

VACAC and its partnering agencies will work together to achieve their objectives, including discussing program compliance, income eligibility, and health status eligibility. VACAC and its regional subdivisions are not independent bodies; they must work together to develop the partnership. Along with the upcoming regional consumer trainings, VACAC is planning community engagement through other activities. These activities include reaching out and offering social support to HIV-positive persons who are not in medical care and to newly-diagnosed individuals, and educating the community about issues and challenges raised by the epidemic.

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PERSONNEL

Welcome

Ramon "R.J." Gomez is the new Health Educator at the Disease Prevention Hotline. He is from Danville, Virginia. R.J. has a BS in Kinesiology and Health Sciences with a Pre-Med Concentration from the College of William and Mary. He previously worked as a medical scribe for Bon Secours Health System. R.J. likes to play the guitar and piano, play soccer, and explore the wilderness in his spare time. You can reach him at (804) 864-7286 or at ramon.gomez@vdh.virginia.gov. Welcome, R.J.!



Welcome **Ifedolapo (Ife) Aderibigbe**, the new National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) Coordinator. Ife has a BS in Public Health Education from North Carolina Central University, and an MPH degree with an Epidemiology specialty from Florida International University. She comes to us from the Florida Department of Health where she worked as an environmental health specialist. Ife has past experience coordinating community programs and HIV prevention programs, including prevention of mother-to-child transmission and HIV/AIDS education. Ife is located at the Norfolk City Health Department. She can be reached at Ifedolapo.Aderibigbe@vdh.virginia.gov or (757) 683-2479.

SODA welcomes **Michael Bittner**, a current student at Virginia Tech. Michael is working on his MPH and completing his practicum with the Epidemiology & Surveillance team this summer. He is focusing on demographic and spatial analyses of recent gonorrhea morbidity increases. His email is michael.bittner@vdh.virginia.gov.



Congratulations

Julie Karr has joined the HIV Prevention full-time as a PrEP Operations Specialist. Previously, she shared responsibilities between the HIV care and prevention teams. Julie received her MPH from the University of Florida, and has a background in social epidemiology and community-engaged research. She has been active in HIV prevention since 2006. Julie volunteered with a syringe exchange program and provided HIV testing and counseling before joining VDH. She has worked with homeless adults, children, those in substance abuse recovery, and incarcerated men. Julie can be reached at (804) 864-7938 or julie.karr@vdh.virginia.gov.



Cameron Rose, MPH, rejoins the STD team as the new Viral Hepatitis Testing Coordinator. Cameron graduated from Virginia Tech's MPH program earlier this month. His concentration was in infectious disease and public health education. He completed his practicum working with the STD program on electronic lab reporting. Cameron will be working to build capacity for hepatitis B and C testing with health departments statewide. Contact Cameron at (804) 864-7997 or cameron.rose@vdh.virginia.gov.

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